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Democrats and Republicans have two competing visions for what we need to do in order to make sure that every American can continue to experience the American Dream.

Democrats, we want to move the country forward. Others want to turn back the clock.

We are working hard to bring people together. Others are tearing us apart.

We are fighting for working families and middle-class folks. Others are fighting for the wealthy and the well off.

We believe in the public interest. Others are all about the special interests.

Democrats are fighting for the people. Others are fighting for the privileged few. We are fighting for working families, middle-class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, the afflicted, veterans, people in rural America, urban America, suburban America.

Democrats are fighting for the people. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, unfortunately, are fighting for millionaires, billionaires, mega corporations, lobbyists, big donors, all to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless.

Exhibit A is the Republican tax scam. That is their signature piece of legislation. That is what they are talking to the American people about.

You are proud of the fact that you passed a bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent in America, explodes the debt by more than \$1.5 trillion, then you want to come back to Congress and lecture us about cutting Social Security and Medicare? Are you kidding?

Our For the People agenda will focus on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening the Affordable Care Act, protecting people with preexisting conditions, more than 100 million Americans. They want to take away that protection. We are working hard to dramatically lower the cost of lifesaving prescription drugs. That is the Democratic For the People agenda.

Wage stagnation is still a problem for the American people. The productivity of the American worker over the last 40-plus years has increased by more than 285 percent. During the same period of time, wages have gone up by less than 10 percent.

The productivity gains of the American worker have not gone to the American worker, they have gone to the privileged few. What do the Republicans do about it? Pass a tax bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent.

We have a different idea for what should take place. We are fighting for the people through increased pay anchored in a real infrastructure plan that will fix our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, ports, mass-transportation system; not a fake plan, it is a real plan. We will invest \$1 trillion, create 16 million good-paying jobs, fight to make sure that everyday

Americans can provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their families.

And, lastly, we are going to fight to clean up corruption here in Washington, D.C.; not talk about it, actually get something done to make sure that Washington works for the American people.

That is what you deserve. That is what Democrats are fighting hard to deliver: lower healthcare costs, increased pay, clean up corruption to make sure that Washington works for the people.

BLACK FAMILY FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Black Family Foundation of Erie, Pennsylvania.

The foundation was established in 1993 by a very distinguished constituent of mine, Mr. Samuel P. "Pat" Black, III, and his late father, an Erie legend, Mr. Samuel P. Black, Jr., who passed away in 2001 just 4 months shy of his 100th birthday.

According to its mission statement, the foundation exists to fund systemic change.

It proudly focuses on strategic non-profit investments throughout Erie County that leverage resources for the greatest gains in social progress.

Its vision is profound and very ambitious. It exists:

To promote continuous improvements in the quality of life around the globe by investing in projects that offer a high probability of not only transformational value, but also sustainable change.

Over the course of its respected history, the foundation has funded non-profit programs and organizations in the areas of health and welfare, entrepreneurial education, homelessness, environmental sustainability, economic initiatives, and technology initiatives.

Specifically, the organization has supported such initiatives as the creation of the Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute. This is an approved private school that offers state-of-the-art educational programs to children ages 3 through 21 with autism and intellectual and physical disabilities.

Over the last 15 years, Mr. Black and the Black Family Foundation have also supported hundreds of students through scholarships at Penn State's Behrend College and at Mercyhurst University.

In the last decade alone, the foundation has donated more than \$13 million throughout the Erie community and to worthy organizations around the world.

To Mr. Black and his family, we say: Happy anniversary, and may God bless

you for all that you do to help bless others.

RECOGNIZING MARGIE TOWERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a teacher who continues to have an indelible impact on Arkansas, Margie Towery, who is this year's Greenbrier School District Teacher of the Year.

Margie has dedicated her life to serving and educating Arkansas' youth.

This is her 26th year of teaching, including seven at the nearby University of Central Arkansas.

Margie is a big advocate for STEM education, particularly for young girls, and even takes her students to local universities to participate in their STEM activities.

She started and led the Rhetoric Society at the high school until she became a full-time sponsor of the student council.

Teachers like Margie prove that education is one of the best investments that America can make.

I am proud to represent her and all the teachers of central Arkansas who are making a difference for our youth.

ARNOLD HAMEISTER RETIREMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a man who has had a major impact on conservation and preservation throughout Arkansas, Mr. Arnold Hameister.

Arnold recently retired after 37 years of service to the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

He started his career with the Forestry Commission in 1981 as a tower operator in Heber Springs, and 6 months later became a full-time ranger.

Arnold then moved his family to Conway, where he served as the county ranger until he was hired by Best Management Practices as a specialist.

He ended his decades-long career as the program coordinator for water quality.

Arnold and his family were recently honored at a celebration at the Department of Agriculture headquarters in Little Rock.

Arnold's service to the State of Arkansas and to environmental conservation will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating him on a remarkable career and a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TAMIKA EDWARDS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Tamika Edwards, who has just been named executive director of the Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College.

Tamika has served her State and her country tirelessly throughout her whole career from her work as a former aide to U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, to her role as the Director of Governmental Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.